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Discoveryeducation.com

Home>Teachers>Free 6-8 Resources>Free Grades 6-8 Science Resources

This website has a login and free features. It has multiple resources including lesson plans, webinars, discussion boards and classroom ideas. I specifically looked at various lesson plans. It includes vocabulary, related readings, materials, procedures and what types of standards it addresses. I think it is important to look through these kinds of lessons and incorporate them into your classroom. This site also contains a puzzle maker and teacher resources, homework help and resources for students, and parent resources. This website can be used not only in the science classroom, but any subject area. It has easy access and navigates efficiently. Within this website it contains links to various learning materials. Explore the blue contains interactive features that allow a student to do things such as fishing. I think this is incredibly important in giving the student an opportunity to go on “field trips” if they have never experienced such activities. http://exploretheblue.discoveryeducation.com

www.nasa.gov

NASA Home > Education > For Students > Grades 5-8

This site has multiple uses. It contains information to the general public about science. If you continue searching throughout its many resources you can find it has many uses. One, it allows students to self-research topics related to earth science. It can be used a valuable resource. It also contains links for younger elementary age, “kid science club”. This site contains videos, pictures, updated scientific information that is relevant for everyone to use. It allows teachers to access important information regarding current events. It also has suggested lesson plans for educators. The site is usable my student, teacher, and parent. On the home page, it contains links for public, educators, students, media, and policymakers. Each link has relevant information to that specific group of people. The student link contains homework help called “MyNasa”. It contains recent news relevant to individual age groups.

www.nationalgeographic.com

This site contains information useful to multiple audiences. It includes a teacher/educator section. In this section you can navigate its several links. It has multimedia, lesson plans and activities, interactive mapping, and reference and news. The site is organized by subject type. If you click on Big Cats, it contains all the information links, videos, activities, pictures that would be needed on that particular subject. The mapping link I found extremely interesting. It has a system similar to GIS. You can zoom in to parts on the map, click on layers like populations, religions, and climate, ect. The map then show those relationships layered. This is a great tool for students to use interactively. It can also help students think critically about climatic and population commonalities. It has earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, plate tectonics, ocean currents, chlorophyll concentrations, and precipitation trends. I love this free mapping system.

www.brainpop.com

This site is written less for the educator and more for the student. The reason why I find it to be included in my selection is because of how it is published. This site is more “interest” based. It would help students who find science to be boring and less exciting and show them the hyped up media version. It contains everything that a young student would be interested in. The site has games on various subjects including science. Science is divided into multiple categories that include cell, life, earth, weather, ecology, energy, scientists, matter and chemistry, motion force and time, environment, and the scientific inquiry. If you enter one of the more specific sub categories, then it directs you to even more choices. The scientific inquiry link allows you to explore 12 additional areas. I also thought it was important to see 3 females listed under the scientists section. This site is kid graphic friendly and has an inviting appearance. It is easy to navigate but contains plentiful information. This would be used more as an exploratory site for pleasure research and homework. Hopefully the website will link the student at home to science in the classroom. I think it is important to find sites that are relevant to the students “at home” media lifestyle.

www.fcatexplorer.com

I chose this site not because of its accessibility or colorful display, but because I think it is important to use the website connected with the standardized testing. As a new teacher, I am unfamiliar with the style of questions on the exam. By familiarizing myself with the website and interacting with the content it will allow me to better prepare my students will the necessary skills to succeed on the standardized test. The Science Voyager provides ample exercise for the Florida standards tested on the FCAT. The program is organized into three areas: Physical & Chemical, Earth & Space, and Life & Environment. The website also offers support on answer-specific feedback, remedial lessons, and science vocabulary activities. It is available to all Florida public schools. I would use this in the classroom by making it a station exercise, draw questions for discussion or as a review for the test.